



## Raising the Bar in D.C.: A Funding Campaign for Legal Services

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the *Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign*?**

The Campaign is an initiative launched by the D.C. Access to Justice Commission that provides special recognition to law firms that support local legal services providers. The Campaign establishes revenue-based benchmarks for law firm donations to legal services providers with the goal of substantially increasing financial support for organizations serving indigent residents. Because the benchmarks are based on revenue, the recognition levels are accessible to firms of all sizes and a wide range of firms, from large, multinational firms to solo practitioners, are honored each year.

#### **What are the benchmark levels?**

The levels are 0.110% of D.C. office revenue for platinum recognition, 0.090 % for gold and 0.075% for silver. The following chart can give you a rough estimate of the giving level required at different revenue levels:

Benchmark Levels		D.C. Office Revenue			
		\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$100,000,000
Platinum	0.110%	\$110	\$1,100	\$11,000	\$110,000
Gold	0.090%	\$90	\$900	\$9,000	\$90,000
Silver	0.075%	\$75	\$750	\$7,500	\$75,000

#### **How do I determine if my firm is eligible for recognition?**

First, calculate the donations made by your firm to the eligible organizations on the attached list during the campaign year. Only donations to these organizations – each of which has as a core mission the provision of direct legal services to low- or moderate-income District residents – count toward meeting the benchmark level. Cash donations, donation of attorneys’ fees, and sponsorship of fellowships at the organizations on the attached list all count. The value of pro bono work, the value of loaned associates, in-kind donations made by the firm, and donations made by individual attorneys do not count. Firms may only count contributions to the D.C. Access to Justice Commission once they have reached the silver level through donations to one or more of the other listed organizations. In other words, donations to the Commission may only be counted to move a firm up a level – either from the silver to the gold level, or from the gold to the platinum level.

Second, calculate your firm's D.C. office revenue. Revenue is calculated as an average of the preceding three years (e.g., for donations made in 2023, firms would look at the average of D.C. office revenue in 2022, 2021, 2020). The firm is not required to release to the Commission its revenue calculations or its method of calculating what revenue is attributed to the D.C. office. Firms take different approaches to this calculation.

Third, you will calculate your firm's recognition level. If your firm's giving represents 0.075% of its D.C. office revenue or higher, it is eligible for recognition at the silver level; 0.090% or higher at the gold level; and 0.110% or higher at the platinum level. The Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane (contact information below) is available to answer questions and assist in the calculations.

### **What happens if the firm qualifies?**

Qualifying firms should fill out a reporting form for the previous calendar year's giving. Firms may use the past year's reporting form to assist in calculating the required giving levels. Historically, the Commission has also honored all participating firms through social media and, sometimes, at an event in the Spring following the campaign year. The receptions have featured a prominent speaker and receive press coverage. Previous events have included remarks by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, the Honorable David Tatel, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant U.S. Attorney General Vanita Gupta, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Chair Catherine E. Lhamon, D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine, Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge Robert Morin, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, and the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, who've each congratulated the firms for their leadership and support of local legal services providers. In 2018, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a proclamation celebrating the success of the Campaign. Due to the pandemic, the Commission did not hold a recognition event for the 2019 and 2020 leadership circle. For the 2021 Campaign, a social media and media campaign highlighted Leadership Circle firms.

### **Does the firm need to submit any documentation?**

The Campaign is run on an honor system and firms are not required to provide their revenue or donation amounts to the Commission. However, the Commission does require firms to provide confidential information about its giving levels to Ernst & Young so that Ernst & Young can, in turn, provide aggregate data to the Commission. Specifically, firms are asked to provide Ernst & Young with their total amount of giving and what level of recognition this represents for the firm. Ernst & Young releases to the Commission only the total amount of giving by all participating firms. This allows the Commission to quantify the aggregate amount of money donated under the Campaign. The firm is not required at any time to provide information about its revenue or the amounts donated to individual providers. A reporting form is provided to participating firms in the early part of the year following the campaign year (i.e., firms will receive the 2023 reporting form in early 2024).

### **Which other firms are participating?**

The list continues to grow. Thirty-seven firms participated in 2020 despite COVID-related impact on giving; 34 firms participated in 2021, and 40 firms participated in 2022. A historical listing of participating firms is attached.

### **Whom can I contact with questions?**

Contact the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane, [nancy.drane@dcaccesstojustice.org](mailto:nancy.drane@dcaccesstojustice.org), or 202-736-8334.

## The Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign - Eligible Recipient Organizations

Advocates for Justice and Education	Legal Counsel for the Elderly
Amara Legal Center	Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	Mil Mujeres Legal Services
Ayuda	Mother's Outreach Network
Bread for the City Legal Services	Neighborhood Legal Services Program
CAIR Coalition	Network for Victim Recovery of D.C. (NVRDC)
CARECEN	Open City Advocates
Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services	Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
Catholic Charities Legal Network	Rising for Justice (formerly DC Law Students in Court)
Children's Law Center	Safe Sister's Circle
Christian Legal Aid of D.C.	School Justice Project
D.C. Access to Justice Foundation <sup>1</sup>	Second Look Project
D.C. Affordable Law Firm	Tahirih Justice Center
D.C. Bar Foundation	Tzedek D.C.
D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center	U.D.C. Law Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program
D.C. KinCare Alliance	University Legal Services, Disability Rights DC
D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project	Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA)
First Shift Justice Project	Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Human Rights First – D.C. Asylum Legal Representation Project	Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) – D.C. Office	Whitman Walker Legal Services
Legal Aid of the District of Columbia	

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<sup>1</sup> Firms may only count Contributions to the D.C. Access to Justice Foundation (in support of the Commission) once they have reached the Silver level through donations to one or more of the other listed organizations. Donations to the D.C. Access to Justice Foundation may only be counted to move a firm up a level – either from the Silver to the Gold level, or from the Gold to the Platinum level.

**RAISING THE BAR IN D.C.  
A FUNDING CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

**SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION**

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**LEADERSHIP CIRCLE 2022**

**PLATINUM LEVEL DONORS**



Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
ArentFox Schiff LLP  
Arnold & Porter  
Beveridge & Diamond PC  
Brown & Peisch PLLC  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP  
Henrikson Law PLLC  
Jones Day  
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP  
Katz Banks Kumin LLP  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Kropf Moseley PLLC

Law Office of Cecily E. Baskir, LLC  
Law Office of Andrea Ferster  
Law Offices of Andrew Marks PLLC  
Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick  
Lippman, Semsler & Salb LLC  
Lowenstein Sandler LLP  
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
McKinney Figini, LLC  
Sidley Austin LLP  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
The Piorkowski Law Firm, PC  
Venable LLP  
Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

## **GOLD LEVEL DONORS**



Buckley LLP  
Crowell & Moring LLP  
Klein Hornig LLP  
Mayer Brown LLP  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
WilmerHale

## **SILVER LEVEL DONORS**



Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP  
Covington & Burling LLP  
Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP  
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP  
Epstein Becker & Green, PC  
Latham & Watkins LLP  
Miller & Chevalier Chartered

## The Raising the Bar Campaign – Participating Firms (2011-2022)

### *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

Platinum 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014;  
Gold 2021, 2020; Silver 2013, 2012, 2011

### *Arent Fox LLP*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017; Gold  
2016; Silver 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

### *Arnold & Porter*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018; Gold 2020, 2017,  
2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

### *Ballard Spahr LLP*

Platinum 2014

### *Banner Witcoff*

Silver 2011

### *Benach Collopy LLP*

Silver 2017; Platinum 2016, 2014, 2012

### *Beveridge & Diamond PC*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2019; Gold 2018, 2017, 2016,  
2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2020, 2012

### *Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP*

Platinum 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

### *Brown & Peisch PLLC*

Platinum 2022

### *Buckley LLP*

Gold 2022, 2021, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015;  
Platinum 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2011

### *Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP*

Silver 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016,  
2015, 2014, 2013

### *Cohen & Gresser LLP*

Platinum 2019

### *Covington & Burling LLP*

Platinum 2021, 2017, 2015, 2014; Gold 2020, 2018,  
2016, 2012, 2011; Silver 2022, 2019, 2013

### *Crowell & Moring LLP*

Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013;  
Gold 2022, 2021, 2017, 2012, 2011

### *Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP*

Silver 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015,  
2014, 2013

### *McKinney Figini LLC (formerly Delaney McKinney LLP)*

Platinum 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014,  
2013, 2012, 2011

### *Dentons US LLP*

Gold 2020, 2017; Silver 2019, 2018, 2016; Platinum  
2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

### *DLA Piper LLP (US)*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015,  
2014, 2013; Gold 2017, 2012; Silver 2011

### *Dykema Gossett PLLC*

Gold 2017, 2016; Platinum 2015, 2014

### *Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.*

Silver 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016,  
2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

### *Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP*

Platinum 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013,  
2012, 2011; Gold 2021; Silver 2022

### *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*

Gold 2016; Platinum 2015; Silver 2014; Platinum  
2013

### *Henrikson Law PLLC*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

### *Jenner & Block LLP*

Silver 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

### *Jones Day*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016,  
2014, 2013, 2012, 2011; Gold 2015

*KaiserDillon PLLC*  
Platinum 2018, 2017

*Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch, P.C.*  
Platinum 2017

*Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP*  
Platinum 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018; Gold 2021, 2017

*Katz Banks Kumin LLP (formerly Katz, Marshall & Banks)*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

*Kirkland & Ellis*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

*Klein Hornig LLP*  
Platinum 2021, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012, 2011; Gold 2022, 2019; Silver 2015, 2014

*KMA Zuckert*  
Platinum 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

*Kropf Moseley LLP*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

*Latham & Watkins LLP*  
Gold, 2021; Silver 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

*Law Offices of Andrea Ferster*  
Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

*Law Offices of Dean Gregory*  
Platinum 2020, 2019

*Law Offices of Andrew Marks PLLC*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

*Law Office of Cecily E. Baskir, LLC*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

*Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

*Law Office of Virginia Kling*  
Platinum 2013, 2012

*Lippman, Semsler & Salb LLC*  
Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

*Lowenstein Sandler LLP*  
Platinum 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017; Silver 2021

*Matalon & Nathani, LLP*  
Platinum 2017, 2016, 2015; Gold 2018, 2014

*Mayer Brown LLP*  
Platinum 2021, 2012; Gold 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2011; Silver 2014

*McDermott Will & Emery LLP*  
Silver 2011

*Miller & Chevalier Chartered*  
Platinum 2019, 2017; Gold 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2022, 2020

*Orr Immigration Law Firm*  
Platinum 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

*Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP*  
Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018; Gold 2022, 2021, 2017, 2016, 2015; Silver 2014

*Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP*  
Gold 2022, 2021; Silver 2020, 2019, 2018

*Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP*  
Platinum 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2019, 2012

*RDH Law*  
Platinum 2013, 2012

*Regan Associates, Chartered*  
Platinum 2016, 2014, 2013

*Relman Colfax PLLC*

Gold 2018; Platinum 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2019

*Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP*

Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

*Sidley Austin LLP*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017; Gold 2016, 2015, 2014; Silver 2013, 2012, 2011

*Steptoe & Johnson LLP*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2012, 2011

*Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP*

Silver 2017, 2016; Gold 2015, 2014

*The Morrison & Foerster Foundation*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

*The Piorkowski Law Firm PC*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015; Silver 2020

*Tycko & Zavareei LLP*

Gold 2013; Silver 2014

*Venable LLP*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

*Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC*

Platinum 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

*Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP*

Gold 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011; Silver 2020

*WTAII PLLC*

Platinum 2019

*Zuckerman Spaeder LLP*

Platinum 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011